



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Branstetter or [Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov](mailto:Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov)  
727-570-5305, FAX 727-570-5583  
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 19, 2001  
NR01-029

## SHRIMP AMENDMENT 11 AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). The amendment would require all commercial shrimp vessels (including boats) that harvest shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to obtain a renewable Federal permit, and it would prohibit the use of traps in the royal red shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. Written comments on the Amendment are requested from the public and must be received on or before **September 17, 2001**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of Amendment 11, which includes an Environmental Assessment and a Regulatory Impact Review, are available from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, The Commons at Rivergate, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa Florida 33619-2266. Phone: 813-228-2815; FAX: 813-833-1844.

Comments on the Amendment must be mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments may also be sent via FAX to 727-522-5583. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

Written comments regarding the collection-of-information requirements associated with the proposed permit may be submitted to Robert Sadler, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702, or to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The shrimp fishery is the largest commercial fishery (in numbers of

fishing vessels and participants) in the Gulf of Mexico, but is one of the few Federally managed fisheries with no fishing permit requirement. The Council concluded that information collected via a Federal permit system would aid in the formulation of sound management measures for the shrimp fishery as well as for those finfish fisheries that are impacted because of the bycatch mortality attributable to the shrimp fishery.

Royal red shrimp have been a small component of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery since the early 1960s, traditionally being fished using modified shrimp trawls at depths exceeding 100 fathoms (183 meters). The Council concluded that allowing trap gear to be used in this fishery would likely lead to gear conflicts and could lead to overfishing.

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA Fisheries is evaluating a proposed rule that would implement the measures outlined in Amendment 11 to determine whether the rule is consistent with the FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law. If that determination is affirmative, NOAA Fisheries will publish the proposed rule in the *Federal Register* for public review and comment. Comments received by **September 17, 2001**, whether specifically directed to the Amendment or the proposed rule, will be considered by NOAA Fisheries in its decision to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the Amendment. All comments received on the Amendment or the proposed rule will be addressed in the final rule.

NOAA Fisheries is an Agency of the Department of Commerce.